

For Immediate Release

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Media Contact: Kwanza Newson
414-286-3548 Office
414-732-7250 Mobile
knewso@milwaukee.gov

Health Officials Launch Plan to Reduce Male-to-Male HIV Transmission



Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker unveiled the city's multi-phased plan to address Milwaukee's high HIV rates by announcing a partnership with Diverse and Resilient, Inc. to help reach young African-American men who have sex with men (MSM).

Officials said the partnership will start to address root causes associated with the rise of HIV disease in Milwaukee, including engaging in high risk sexual behavior and the reasons why partners are not disclosing their HIV status to each other. The partnership will also

set the framework to engage additional community agencies to broaden interventions and reach throughout Milwaukee, he said.

"The HIV epidemic has disproportionately affected African-American men who have sex with men in Milwaukee," said Mayor Tom Barrett. "This is concerning and we are taking immediate action to reduce the burden of disease in our community."

"Diverse and Resilient uses evidence-based approaches and has a proven track record in community education and outreach," Baker said. "They will be able to move quickly toward mobilizing the community for action."

"This is not just a City of Milwaukee Health Department issue," he said. "We need community support and awareness because addressing this issue will require everyone to stand firm."

Diverse and Resilient, Inc. uses evidence-based approaches to HIV, alcohol, and tobacco prevention and is governed by a ten member board of directors whose expertise are in the fields of human development, social justice, medicine, psychology, and health.

In the past two years, 74% of the HIV prevention clients served by Diverse and Resilient have been people of color. During this same period, 80% of clients served in their HIV programs have been men who have sex with men.

For more information on Diverse and Resilient, Inc visit www.diverseandresilient.org.